

Remarks

In an Office Action dated 30 May 2002, the Examiner objected to the title, rejected claims 1-3, 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,101,480 issued to Conmy, and rejected claims 4-7, 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor. The Examiner further rejected claims 15-16, 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,253,203, issued to O'Flaherty and claims 17-23, 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the O'Flaherty Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page. Applicant has amended the title, cancelled claims 16, 25 and amended claims 1-20, 24, 26-29.

The Examiner objected to the title as not being descriptive. Applicant has amended the title to conform to the claimed subject matter.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,101,480 issued to Conmy, and rejected claims 4-7, 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the Conmy Patent as and claims 17-23, 26-32 applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor, noting with respect thereto:

As to claims 1 and 8, Conmy teaches a system which including 'a data Management system for automatically maintaining address information in user address books' [see Abstract, col 1, line 60-65], examiner interpreting address book corresponds to Conmy's electronic calendar that maintains name and address book for users as detailed in col 1, line 62-64, 'means for storing a set of address book data for each of a plurality of subscribers, each said set of address book data comprising data which contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual' [col 1, line 60-67, col 2, line 1-3, col 3, line 45-55, fig 1], Conmy specifically teaches database element 200 stores one or more profiles, element 202, one or more calendar files element 210, and one or more name and address files element 212 as detailed in fig 1, further it is noted that name and address files element 212 containing list all of the names and electronic mail addresses for a plurality of all of the users as detailed in col 3, line 51-53, 'means for storing a set of individual address data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each of said address books' [col 3, line 38-49, line 66-67, col 4, line 1-5] 'responsive to a change in a set of individual

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address data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to sets of address book data which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual' [col 8, line 66-67, col 9, line 1-5, col 10, line 34-39], Conmy teaches specifically name/address book is kept for each person at each domain, further electronic mail address and calendar for each person are in the same database, so that calendar information may be exchanged.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited Conmy Patent and the Examiner's remarks and has amended independent claims 1, 8 to emphasize the claimed differences between Applicant's system and the system taught by the Conmy Patent. In particular, the initial wording of independent claims 1, 8 was inarticulate and this language has been revised to maintain the same scope of the claims, but to contain recitations that articulate Applicant's claimed invention.

The Conmy Patent discloses a meeting reservation system for a networked computer system that contains a list (212) of the users who are connected to the network. The list of users includes the user's name and address [column 3, lines 50-52]. The Conmy system also stores profile data (202) that notes the user's hours of work, physical location, etc and calendar data (210) that notes existing meeting commitments [column 3, lines 56-64]. The profile and calendar data is necessary for the Conmy system to determine a user's availability for meetings that are to be scheduled [column 5, lines 45-62]. The Conmy fails to show or suggest management of the users' personal address books, since this system is exclusively directed to the task of scheduling meetings.

In contrast, Applicant's address book maintenance system propagates changes to the address book entry data corresponding to an identified individual, as entered by a subscriber into their address book, to all other address book entries corresponding to the identified individual in the address books of other subscribers. Thus, each subscriber maintains their own address book of individuals, and Applicant's system ensures that all the entries in all of the subscribers' address books are consistent. For example, when an individual moves, their address data, when changed by one subscriber, is automatically changed for all subscribers who have this individual listed in their personal address book. This structure was not clearly stated

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in the original claims and is not articulated in the following manner (in claim 1 for example):

A data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of subscriber address books, comprising:

means for storing, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

means for storing a set of individual data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each subscriber address book for said plurality of subscribers; and

means, responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

Applicant believes that indepent claims 1 and 8 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited Conmy Patent since the Conmy Patent fails to show or suggest Applicant's recited "means for storing, for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book," or "a subscriber address book comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual," or "means, responsive to a change in a set of said individual data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of subscriber address books which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual." Applicant believes that claims 2-3, 9-10 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited Conmy Patent since these claims depend on an allowable base claim. Applicant also believes that claims 4-7, 11-14 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 1, 8 and further in view of U.S. Patent No 5,754,306 issued to Taylor since these claims depend on an allowable base claim.

The Examiner further rejected claims 15-16, 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No 6,253,203, issued to O'Flaherty and claims 17-23, 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over the O'Flaherty Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page, noting with respect thereto:

As to claims 15, 24, O'Flaherty teaches a system which including 'a data

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management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members' [see Abstract, col 2, line 21-29], 'means for storing a set of community membership data for each of a plurality of communities, each said set of community membership data comprising data which contains a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual' [col 1, line 57-67, col 2, line 57-67, col 7, line 1-15], examiner interpreting plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual corresponds to O'Flaherty fig 2A, 3A, community membership corresponds to either banking, credit card transaction profile and the like as detailed in col 1, line 57-60, 'storing a set of individual member data for each of said individuals listed in each of said plurality of communities' [see fig 2A, 3A], O'Flaherty specifically teaches for example a logical model of the secure data warehouse that containing customer table element 202 having identity information, personal information, as detailed in fig 2A, 3A, 'providing a user with access to a set of individual member data of an identified individual' [col 8, line 35-49], O'Flaherty teaches privileged view element 262 permits viewing, analysis, and alteration of information, more specifically user to view, specify, and change consumer privacy preferences as detailed in col 8, line 45-49.

Applicant has carefully reviewed the cited O'Flaherty Patent and the Examiner's remarks and has cancelled claims 16, 25 and amended independent claims 15, 24 to emphasize the claimed differences between Applicant's system and the system taught by the O'Flaherty Patent.

The O'Flaherty Patent discloses a privacy enhanced database that controls access to the consumer data stored therein via a dataview operation which has a privacy mask. Each consumer can set a consumer privacy parameter that defines the range of access permitted to the data that they have stored in the database. The O'Flaherty privacy scheme reviews a requesting entity's data privileges and compares these with the consumer privacy parameter set by the consumer who owns the portion of the data requested by the requesting entity. If the requesting entity's data privileges match the consumer privacy parameter set by the consumer, then access to the data is permitted. However, the O'Flaherty system does not operate to manage a plurality of community address books or automatically change an individual's address book data for all subscribers who are members of the same community and who have this individual listed in their personal address book.

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In contrast, Applicant's address book maintenance system propagates changes to the address book entry data corresponding to an identified individual, as entered by a subscriber into their address book, to all other address book entries corresponding to the identified individual in the address books of other subscribers, where the subscriber is a member of the same community as the identified individual. Thus, each subscriber maintains their own address book of individuals, and Applicant's system ensures that all the entries in all of the subscribers' address books are consistent. For example, when an individual moves, their address data, when changed by one subscriber, is automatically changed for all subscribers who are members of the same community and who have this individual listed in their personal address book. This structure was not clearly stated in the original claims and is not articulated in the following manner (in claim 15 for example):

A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing, for each of a plurality of communities, community membership data comprising a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community;

means for storing a set of individual data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for said plurality of communities;

means for providing a user with access to a set of said individual data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

means, responsive to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

Thus, Applicant believes that claims 15, 24 are now allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over the cited O'Flaherty Patent and claims 17-23, 26-32 are allowable under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the Conmy Patent as applied to claims 15, 24 and further in view of published PCT Application WO 94/16398 to Page since these claims depend on an allowable base claim.

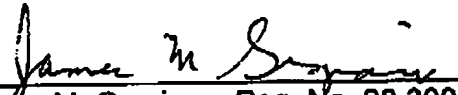
In summary, Applicant has amended the title, cancelled claims 16, 25 and amended claims 1-20, 24, 26-29.

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The Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance in this application in light of the amendments and arguments set forth herein. The undersigned attorney requests Examiner Channavajjala to telephone if a conversation could expedite prosecution. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additionally required payment of fees to deposit account #50-1848.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

In the Title:

[RECIPROCAL, MAINTENANCE COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM] DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR AUTOMATED UPDATES OF ENTRIES IN A PLURALITY OF SUBSCRIBER ADDRESS BOOKS

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of [user] subscriber address books, comprising:

means for storing, [a set of address book data] for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book [each said set of address book data] comprising [data which contains] a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

means for storing a set of individual [address] data, including address data, for each of said individuals listed in each [of said] subscriber address book[s] for said plurality of subscribers; and

means, responsive to a change in a set of said individual [address] data associated with an identified individual, for propagating said change to ones of said plurality of [sets of] subscriber address books [data] which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

2. (Amended) The data management system of claim 1 wherein said means for propagating comprises:

means for storing data to delimit which ones of said [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

3. (Amended) The data management system of claim 2 wherein said means for propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

4. (Amended) The data management system of claim 1 wherein said individual address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said means for propagating comprises:

means for storing access level data to delimit which ones of said [sets of address book] said individual data are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

5. (Amended) The data management system of claim 4 wherein said means for propagating further comprises:

means for defining groups of [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

6. (Amended) The data management system of claim 1 further comprising:

means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual [address] data associated with an identified individual.

7. (Amended) The data management system of claim 6 further comprising:

means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said [set of] individual [address] data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

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8. (Amended) A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining address information in a plurality of [user] subscriber address books, comprising the steps of:

storing, [a set of address book data] for each of a plurality of subscribers, a subscriber address book [each said set of address book data] comprising [data which contains] a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual;

storing a set of individual address data, including [address] data, for each of said individuals listed in each [of said] subscriber address book[s] for said plurality of subscribers; and

propagating, in response to a change in a set of said individual [address] data associated with an identified individual, said change to ones of said plurality of [sets of] subscriber address books [data] which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual.

9. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said step of propagating comprises:

storing data to delimit which ones of said [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

10. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 9 wherein said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

11. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 wherein said individual address data is divided into a plurality of access levels, said step of propagating comprises:

storing access level data to delimit which ones of said [sets of address book]

said individual data are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

12. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 11 wherein said step of propagating further comprises:

defining groups of [sets of] address books [data], which contain an entry corresponding to said identified individual, that are authorized to receive said change to [sets of address book] said individual data.

13. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 8 further comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual [address] data associated with an identified individual.

14. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 13 further comprising:

activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in said [set of] individual [address] data associated with an identified individual, said step of propagating.

15. (Amended) A data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising:

means for storing, [a set of community membership data] for each of a plurality of communities, [each said set of] community membership data comprising [data which contains] a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community;

means for storing a set of individual [member] data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for [of] said plurality of communities; [and]

means for providing a user with access to a set of said individual [member]

data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user;
and

means, responsive to a change in individual data associated with said
identified individual, for propagating said change to all of said plurality of communities
in which said individual is a member.

Cancel Claim 16.

17. (Amended) The data management system of claim [16] 15 further comprising:

means for defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by members of a community to a subset of the member's data; and

means for sharing said individual [member] data among predetermined members of each community who are identified by said set of permissions.

18. (Amended) The data management system of claim [16] 15 further comprising:

means for retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual [member] data associated with an identified individual.

19. (Amended) The data management system of claim 18 further comprising:

means, responsive to said means for retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual [member] data associated with an identified individual, for activating said means for propagating.

20. (Amended) The data management system of claim 17 further comprising:

means, responsive to a set of individual [member] data of an identified individual, for generating at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.

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24. (Amended) A method of operating a data management system for automatically maintaining user data among a plurality of communities, each of which contains a plurality of members, comprising the steps of:

storing, [a set of community membership data] for each of a plurality of communities, [each said set of] community membership data comprising [data which contains] a plurality of entries, each entry corresponding to a named individual who is a member of said community;

storing a set of individual [member] data for each of said individuals listed as a member in each community for [of] said plurality of communities; [and]

providing a user with access to a set of said individual [member] data of an identified individual who is a member of a same community as said user; and

propagating, in response to a change in individual data associated with said identified individual, said change to all of said plurality of communities in which said individual is a member.

Cancel Claim 25.

26. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim [25] 24 further comprising the steps of:

defining a set of data sharing permissions, each of which define access by members of a community to a subset of the member's data; and

sharing said individual [member] data among predetermined members of each community who are identified by said set of permissions.

27. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim [25] 24 further comprising the step of:

retrieving data from a public database to verify a set of individual [member] data associated with an identified individual.

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28. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 27 further comprising the step of:

activating, in response to said step of retrieving identifying a change in data in said set of individual [member] data associated with an identified individual, for said step of propagating.

29. (Amended) The method of operating a data management system of claim 26 further comprising the step of:

generating, in response to a set of individual [member] data of an identified individual, at least one gift giving selection for said identified individual.